

### REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the remarks and analysis contained in the Office Action. Claims 1 and 13 are amended. Claims 20-27 are added above.

The amendment to the specification corrects the informality noted by the Examiner in the Office Action.

Claims 1-4, 10, 11, 13-16 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Schmidt*. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. *Schmidt* does not show an arrangement where a socket portion has oppositely facing engaging surfaces. Only one cable engaging surface exists on the housing portion 11, which the Examiner is reading as a socket portion. Accordingly, none of the claims are anticipated, nor can they be considered obvious in view of *Schmidt*.

New claim 26 presents previous claim 12 in independent form. That claim is allowable. Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over the combination of *Schmidt* and *Reynolds*. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. The proposed combination cannot be made because there is no legal motivation as required to establish a *prima facie* case under 35 U.S.C. §103. There is no benefit to making the combination as suggested by the Examiner. *Schmidt* uses a different arrangement for separating the wedge and the two housing portions. This is described, for example, in column 2, lines 50-60, where *Schmidt* teaches cutting the cable and knocking the housing cap off the saddle to then remove the wedge. There would be no benefit to adding the teachings of *Reynolds* because *Schmidt* already uses a very different arrangement for separating the pieces. At best, the *Reynolds* arrangement would be

redundant. Without a benefit to making the combination, there is no *prima facie* case of obviousness.

New claim 27 presents previous claim 18 in independent form. That claim is allowable. Claim 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over *Schmidt* combined with *Brendel*. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. There is no motivation for making this combination, either. If one were to orient the sidewalls 20 of the saddle portion 14 of *Schmidt* at an oblique angle, that would not facilitate the operation of *Schmidt* in any way. Accordingly, there is no benefit for making the proposed modification to *Schmidt*. Further, the operation of *Brendel* is the opposite of what is claimed. The movement of those portions of that cable clamp relied upon by the Examiner is not responsive to movement of the wedge portion within the socket portion. Therefore, even if the combination were proper, it is not the same as the claimed invention.

Applicant respectfully submits that this case is in condition for allowance. Payment for the additional claims is made by the enclosed Authorization to Charge a Credit Card.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference will facilitate moving this case forward to being issued, Applicant's representative will be happy to discuss any issues regarding this application and can be contacted at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

CARLSON, GASKEY & OLDS

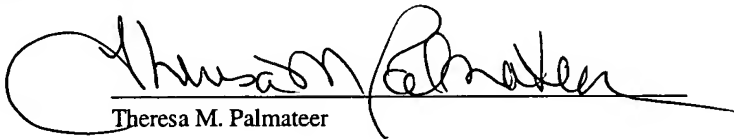
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that the enclosed Response is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on June 24, 2003.

  
Theresa M. Palmateer

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